TIMES-VIRGINIAN
In The Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia
ESTABLISHED 1892

Calvin H. Robinson — Editor and Publisher

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EDITORIALS

SANTA CLAUS LETTERS

Over a period of years this newspaper used to publish dozens of letters to Santa Claus during the holiday season. We'd start it off by announcing that such letters would be published beginning with a certain December issue. And the flood of letters would pour in.

For the past two Christmas seasons we have refrained from publishing any such advance announcement. We have just waited to see what would happen. And the volume of letters to Santa has fallen off to a mere handful.

Are we to conclude that children just don't write Letters to Santa Claus anymore?

We do not know the policy of other newspapers, but we note that the quantity of such letters is away off, too, in the other newspapers we receive. So, apparently it is not a local thing here in Appomattox.

We dare say that the practice of hanging Christmas stockings has also declined. When your Editor was a child, the Christmas stocking was as much a part of the season as the Christmas tree, and much more so than the Christmas greeting card.

Christmas habits do change, don't they?

WANTED: MEN

One of the major problems of the Federal Government, and to a lesser extend, of State and Local Governments, is how to attract truly top-flight men to the public service at compensations offered.

Several key Federal positions are now vacant, and the administration is finding it difficult to fill them.

"Wanted: Administrators with broad experience, mature outlook and sound judgment * * persons with broad understanding and aptitude for management * * men who can turn a group of specialists into a working team * * who can combine imagination and practicability with a sound public program."

In these words, President Truman on June 17, 1947, at Princeton University advertised to the American people the need of our Government for top-flight executives.

A case in mind is that of the chairmanship of the Atomic Energy Commission. One of the very ablest administrators ever to serve the people, in our opinion, David Lilienthal, has resigned that position. He was hounded unmercifully by an assortment of politicians. No one could blame him for giving up and taking the greater rewards of private business.

Clark M. Clifford, Special Counsel to the President, is another fine official lately to resign.

The time will come when the Government will have to offer the compensation and the PROTECTION necessary to command and retain the services of top - flight administrators.

HONOR WHERE DUE

(Winchester Star)

In the Midwest a movement has started which should set an example for all towns and cities, too, for that matter. Hundreds of citizens from town and countryside gathered at the town hall in the small town of Dwight, Kan., to honor Dr. George C. Brethour, who has practiced there for 40 years.

As in all such affairs there were speeches and food, but mostly it was a time for visiting. Many of the guests had been brought into the world by Dr. Brethour during his four decades of service.

State health departments, medical societies and schools are endeavoring to supply small communities with adequate medical service. This, of course, must be built around the family physician, the man who is willing to go day or night in answer to any call.

There are scores of these in practice, and they are among the most important and respected persons in their various communities. All small communities blessed with a family doctor should follow the example of Dwight, Kan., and in some manner show their appreciation. Every effort must be made to attract capable medical men to rural areas.

COMIC BOOKS ON CRIME

OUTLAWED BY CANADIANS

(Atlanta Journal)

On the grounds that crime comic books stimulate juvenile delinquency, the Canadian Parliament has passed legislation banning the publications, distribution or sale of pictorials about "the commission of crimes, real or fictional." It is high time the United States, whose printing presses spawn most of this dubious reading matter, gave some thought to ways and means of curbing the more objectionable trends.

A visit to any news stand is sufficient to convince one that some of the so-called "comic books" by the work of Virginia Travel should be kept out of the hands of children. They are lurid, sexy trash unredeemed by any literary or artistic graces whatsoever. The same may be said for the spate of girlie magazines spurung up in recent years these publications being clearly pornographic in intent and designed to titillate the sexual appetite of degenerates and moronic adults.

It is no simple matter to get at this literary cesspool with effective legislation because the freedom of the press is involved. But much as we dislike a narrow and blue-nosed concept of morality imposed by petty officials, we wish something could be done about a certain type of comic book.

HOMEMAKERS' ITEM

When your kitchen range has dark, greasy stains that ordinary washing or wiping will not remove, treat it with ammonia fumes.

Place a shallow bowl of household ammonia, or a wadded cloth moistened with ammonia, in the oven for several hours overnight.

If the oven door is left open after baking and until the oven is cool, not so many stains will result. This practice also helps prevent rusting of the metal surfaces by steam from food.

To extract onion juice, cut a slice from the bottom of the onion, invert over a lemon squeezer and twist. Thus it is possible to get any desired quantity of onion juice.

Make soap jelly by saving the chips and ends of all bar soaps that are no longer large enough to handle. Melt all the remains of the soap bars together and store in a jar.

Uncle Sam Says

Have you ever stopped to analyze the reasons why Christmas Day has such a tremendous hold on you and your family? Of course there's the real significance of the day, and the tree and family reunion, but back of these happy events is a feeling of safety and security. Safety and security are linked with financial well being, firm underpinnings for your very home. Regular systematic savings out of your income produce safety and security. The best way to save effectively is to save before you spend. You can do this very thing by signing up on Payroll Savings Plan for buying United States Savings Bonds where you work, or enrolling in the Bond-A-Month Plan where you bank if you are self-employed.

U. S. Treasury Department

Phone 30 with Personals.

Virginia Travel Group Visiting Florida

Richmond, Dec. 14.- Florida is rolling out the red carpet in honor of Virginia this week. Twenty-one Virginians, representing many of the Old Dominion's major natural wonders and scenic attractions, and travel facilities assembled at Jacksonville, Floradia, Monday a tenday "good will tour" of that state.

The party, headed by Robert C. Harnsberger, of Luray, chairman of the Florida Promotion Committee of the Virginia Travel Council, will cover both east and west coasts of Florida, bulding twelve promotional meetings and showing motion pictures of Virginia attractions.

The tour party will visit Jacksonville, Palatka, Gainesville, Ocala, Silver Springs, Homosassa, Weeki wachee and Tarpon Springs, Clearwater, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Sarasota, Ft. Myers, Bonita Springs and Nlles City in the west and central parts of Florida. On the east coast it will visit Miami, Miami Beach, Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale, Lake Wales, Cypress Gardens, Sanford, Port Orange, Haines City, Orlando, New Smyrna, Marineland, St. Augustine and Yulee. In many of these communities it will be entertained by welcoming delegations and organizations with banquets, luncheons, fish frys, tours in airplane and yachts and with one or two special performances, including the coronation of the orange queen and an underwater pageant.

The Virginians will introduce the Floridians to Virginia apples, several tons of which in special gift boxes having been shipped ahead for the purpose.

The party's visit is in return for a similar visit made to Virginia this autumn and will be followed up by the work of Virginia Travel Council representatives during the winter months.

Bandits take $460 from a store near Roanoke.

Mayor O'Dwyer of New York is Florida for vacation.

Try a Classified Ad.

Play safe—drive carefully.

Defense Department cuts out a total of 116,000 jobs.

Tractor Wheels Need Regular Servicing

The front wheels of farm tractors work under dusty conditions and unless they are serviced and adjusted regularly they will need repairs.

Replacement of front wheel bearings will cost approximately $7 per bearing, and there are four of them in the front wheels, says S. L. Vogel, assistant farm engineer of the North Dakota agricultural extension service.

Two methods of lubricating front wheel bearings are used on modern tractors, Vogel said. One is the hand packed method. The wheels should be removed at least once a year, cleaned, and bearings repacked with wheel bearing grease.

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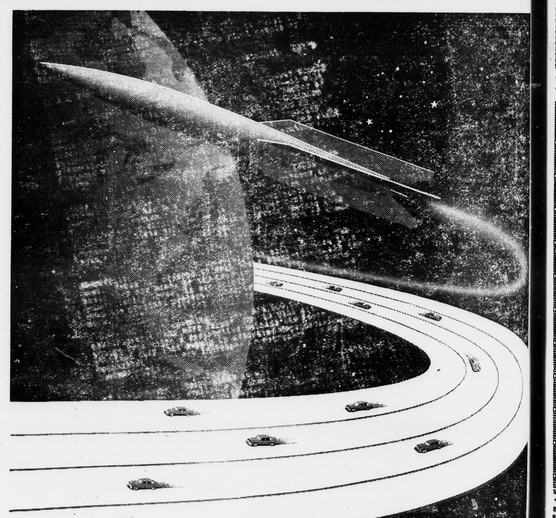

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Such Lovely FLAMES

By John Scott Douglas

FRED DOBSON plugged in the string of lights and then stood back to admire the blue and red and green candle globes on the Christmas tree. Ellen left the table she was setting to study the effect.

"Nice little tree, Fred. Seems a shame, though, not to be sharing it with someone. This was our year—"

And then she stopped, and her face, still pretty in middle age, grew pink. Fred knew she'd been about to say it at it was their year to have the Robbins to Christmas dinner. Every year since their children had married and left they had either entertained their neighbors or had been their guests.

But now, by mutual consent, the quarrel with the Robbins was not mentioned. It was characteristic of Ellen not to blame Fred. And that took forbearance because Martha Robbins had been her dearest friend.

Ellen sighed. "Goodness! the turkey must be almost ready."

He was back in a moment with a rake. Lifting the smouldering tree with the tines, he hurled it out onto the snowy lawn.

Fred thought of their quarrel, which had started because of a cocker puppy which wouldn't stay home. Tom, with his usual consideration for his neighbors, had started to build a fence to keep the dog out of the Dobson's garden. Fred thought the fence was a foot within his own property line, and jokingly said so.

Tom had laughed. "Who's paying for it?"

"I'll pay half," Fred had said, "if you'll buy the strip you're using."

The joke, within a matter of days, had taken on an edge, and then they gave up speaking. No longer did they fish and hunt together, or play in their usual Saturday foursomes.

By then, beginning to fume at Tom's high-handedness, Fred had his property surveyed, only to discover that his garden had in reality extended onto his neighbor's property. The fence was where it belonged.

Fred wanted to apologize, but every time he stepped outside, Tom walked into the house.

Within a matter of seconds, Fred was too busy to think of the quarrel. The little Christmas tree was on fire and carcking fiercely. He flung open the door and screamed, "Fire! help! help!" And then, snatching up the hall runner he'd been planning to replace, he knocked over the tree and began beating out the flames.

Behind him Tom called, "Stay with it, pal—I'll get something."

He was back in a moment with a rake. Lifting the smoldering tree with the tines, he hurled it out onto the snowy lawn.

Martha Robbins had appeared by then. Seeing Ellen staring dazedly at the cloud of smoke and the blackened wall where the tree had stood, she opened the windows and then slipped her arm around Ellen's shoulders.

"Poor dear! And just when you were sitting down to your Christmas dinner. After the smoke has thinned out, this room will be freezing. You and Fred are having dinner with us."

Ellen looked happy but flustered. "But this was our year—"

"Nonsense!" Tom said heartily. "We'll eat with you next year."

"That will be swell," Fred said, beaming.

When they started Martha Robbins' bountiful dinner, there was at first a little stiffness. But Tom was soon joking about Fred's "high forehead," and Fred was asking Tom if he'd considered selling his hair to a wire-brush factory.

As they said hearty farewells later, Tom remarked, "Can't say I'm sorry about that fire. We've sure missed you folks."

"And it was all my fault," Fred said. "I was wrong about—"

"Aw, forget it," Tom interrupted. "How about some golf Saturday?"

When they reached home, Fred looked at the blackened wall speculatively. "No real damage done, Ellen. A coat of paint will fix it up."

"How do you suppose the tree ever caught fire?" Ellen asked.

Fred grinned sheepishly. "A match and a bunch of tissue paper may have helped."

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The Times-Virginian.

Stonewall

Stonewall, Dec. 12.- When we awoke on Saturday morning, we found everything looking like old Santa was on his way! Everything so lovely with snow on the trees and covering the ground.

We want to tell our good Editor how we enjoyed his jokes on his radio broadcast last Friday at noon. Please give us some more as good! We enjoy all of his broadcasts.

Miss Jean Carter, of Roseland, spent last week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Lester Carson.

Hog killing and stripping tobacco seemed to be all the go here the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Beard and children, of Richmond spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. J. H. Beard. Others visiting in this home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beard and son, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Martin and family, Mrs. Paul Wilmer, of Roanoke.

Mrs. Anna Lee spent last week with her sister, Mrs. Lee Wheeler.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. John Harrison have all been sick. We wish them a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burnette and children, of Lynchburg and Aubrey Lee Burnette, of Roanoke spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. J. Rufus Burnette.

Mr. and Mrs. Howlette Drinkard and family were the dinner guests last Friday of his sister, Mrs. Wesley Bethel and Mr. Bethel.

The ladies of Hebron Church enjoyed a mission study class taught by Mrs. Foster, of Lynchburg, last Sunday P. M. at the church. She gave a splendid talk. The rainy day made the attendance small.

Census takers begin training for task of asking questions next year.

Hoover sees U. S. spending as a national danger.

Pope says Jubilee Mass before throng of 30,000.

Federal rent control act is held legal.

House Un-American Activities group to recall Gen. Groves.

Phone 30 with Personals.

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and we have Hundreds of Wonderful Values that will greet you just in time for Christmas!